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November 28, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am very concerned about the changes that are taking place in the food industry. This includes the importation of food plus the genetic engineering and irradiation of food. Most of the time that my wife and I shop at the supermarket produce department we find it difficult to determine where an item was grown. When looking at packaged items we pay attention to the labeling. We note the content of salt and sugar in its various forms. Also, we look for the use of any hydrogenated ingredients. Therefore, labeling that denotes pertinent information is very important to us.

It is unfortunate that claims are being made that verification testing of genetically altered food is unwarranted and that limited testing of irradiated food resulted in the conclusion that food safety is not compromised by irradiation. I hope that the claims prove correct, but only time will tell. Please note that some products were used for many years before the true environmental impact became evident. This includes the use of lead in paints and asbestos in numerous products.

Therefore, I urge you to support the consumer's right to have labeling which includes pertinent information that is essential to making informed decisions in purchasing food. Labeling should include where grown and if genetically altered and irradiated.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Kaiser

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 92N-0139/C6397

See File Number: 98N-1038/C4789



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